1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

dictable rainfall in the winter, which in turn annually threatens the inhabitants with the possibility of drought. Along the coast of Kwangtung, typhoons from time to time descend upon that area with all their tropical fury. They come on the average of 8.5 times a year, usually in May, but no part of the year is completely free from the threat.[17]

III. SOIL AND VEGETATION

Northern Honan Province lies on the fringe of the North China plain, which is covered with a layer of alluvial soil. In colors ranging from light yellow to dark brown, the soil varies from saline to calcareous. South of Kaifeng in Honnan Province the land lies under sandy loam which is most non-calcareous. Farther south in Hupeh Province there are belts of non-calcareous alluvial soil, brown clay, and dark grey soil with varying acid content. Hunan, Kwangsi, and Kwangtung provinces are extensively covered with red and dark red soil of various ages. In these provinces, spotty patches of light and dark grey soil are also found. In the Pearl and Hsi river valleys the soil is mainly alluvial and non-calcareous. The same soil is found along the shores of Hainan Island. In the middle of Hainan Island, red soil predominates, with dark grey soil at higher elevations.

Coniferous forests are common in central and southern Honan. Tropical forests occupy most of the low hills and river valleys. In Hunan and Hupeh provinces, coniferous and evergreen plants grow on higher mountains. Kwangtung has a rich variety of tropical and semi-tropical plants, and throughout the province fruits are extensively cultivated in addition to the staple crop of rice. Tropical plants such as sugar-cane and cinnamon are found also in southern Kwangsi and on

17. Cressey, op. cit., p. 67.